



Scott & Audra Anderson

Scott and Audra Anderson have been foster parents for two years. Audra and Scott decided to become foster parents because they felt that they had been blessed in life and wanted to give back to the community, especially to children in need and their families.

The Anderson's have had two placements; a sibling group, and they also have done some respite care. Some words of wisdom that Scott and Audra wanted to give new foster parents are "Have patience with both the foster system and the children in your care, especially the foster system, their goal is to help children. Don't be afraid

to ask a lot of questions or for help when you need it. There are multiple resources that can be utilized once you learn to navigate the system. Also, develop relationships with other foster families, they are the best resource of all."

When asked if PACE training was helpful the Anderson's responded, "The training was very helpful in giving you an idea of what to expect. It really made you think about issues such as addressing the special needs of children from different ethnic backgrounds and dealing with birth parents. We also met others in the class who are now

friends and a resource to lean on when needed."

Audra and Scott have been blessed with three children; two girls and a boy ages 11, 7 and 5. Audra is a stay at home mom who is active with the children, scouting and school. They are expecting their fourth child later this year. Their numerous activities keep the Anderson taxi service running full speed! In Audra's spare time she likes to scrapbook and ride her horse. Scott is a Plant Manager for a company that manufactures dietary supplements. He enjoys hunting, shooting sporting clays and loves spending time with his family.

Contact Numbers:

Waukesha H & HS
262-548-7212

Eve Altizer Children's Mental Health Outreach
262-548-7310

Crisis Mentoring Pager
414-848-6711

Medical Emergency: 911
Family Emergency: 211

Judy David
Support Group President
414-671-3747
(home) 414-462-8446

Lisa Alden, Supervisor
262-548-7271

Shari Rather,
Foster Care Coordinator
262-548-7267

Amber Sparks
Visitation Coordinator
262-896-6849

March, '06 Placements

Regular Foster Care:
70 Children
8 Admitted
1 Discharged

Treatment Foster Care:
32 Children
2 Admitted
2 Discharged

Group Homes:
5 Children
0 Admitted
0 Discharged

Residential Care Facilities:
13 Children
1 Admitted
0 Discharged

Relative Placements:
50 Children
4 Admitted
3 Discharged

Social Workers:

Bob Alioto
262-548-7262

Peggy Beisser
262-548-7261

Kathe Blum
262-548-7275

Barb Hufschmidt
262-548-7270

Margaret Johnson
262-548-7265

Suzanne Koberstein
262-548-7348

Elizabeth Russo
262-548-7349

Kim Sampson
262-548-7273

Linda Senger
262-548-7698

Marilyn Videgar
262-548-7363

Ted Wuerslin
262-548-7269

Jennifer Wygle
262-548-7260

We Need You!

For more information about becoming a foster parent in Waukesha County, please contact Shari Rather at:

srather@waukeshacounty.gov
262-548-7267

or visit our website at
www.waukeshacounty.gov
and follow the links to foster care.

Waukesha County
Health & Human Services
May 2006

Foster Care Forum

May is National Foster Care Month!

Across Wisconsin, we celebrate Foster Family Month in May and honor the foster families who dedicate their lives and homes to caring for children and helping families involved in the foster care system. Each year, about 170,000 families care for over half a million children whose parents can't take care of them.

These resource families and the social workers, volunteers, educators and professionals who support them quietly take on one of the greatest challenges our society generates. Few people know how much strong love, strenuous work and sympathetic perseverance lie at the heart of

the foster care system. Even fewer understand the increasingly complex roles that foster parents play—from child development experts to birth family mentors, from educational advocates to permanency team members. A group more deserving of appreciation and recognition is hard to imagine.

Thank you for sharing your home, time, energy and love and for also making a real and lasting difference in the lives of foster children! You are highly respected and cherished!!! This year the National Foster Parent Association is sponsoring a ribbon campaign.

At our Waukesha County Human Services location, we will have 5 trees out front filled with 180 blue and white ribbons! **The ribbons will be tied on at 3:00 on May 1st, the County Executive will be there to witness this!** Each blue ribbon displayed represents one child in foster care in our community. Each white ribbon displayed represents one foster home in our community. Drive by and look—it is truly a spectacular sight for the whole family to see!

Thanks for all you do!
Waukesha Health and Human Services



Foster Care Forum
Waukesha Health & Human Services
500 Riverview Ave. Waukesha 53188
262-548-7212

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May 2006...

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Would you like to receive this newsletter via e-mail instead of mail? Please e-mail: srather@waukeshacounty.gov to complete this request. You can also find it online at www.waukeshacounty.gov.

Place
Stamp
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Foster Care Events in Wisconsin
Date: May 12, 2006
Time: 8:30 AM - 12:00 NOON

Event: Journey Home to Clark County
The Journey Home to Clark County is chance for participants to see foster care through the eyes of a child. Participants will experience situations that could lead to the removal of a child from their home. They will interact with: the CPS worker, detective, doctor, judge, social worker, GAL and foster parents on their journey through foster care. They will experience the frustration and confusion of the foster care system and end the day with a chance to discuss what future roles they could play.



Location: Neillsville, Contact: Tammy Karlen, 715-743-5268, tammy.karlen@co.clark.wi

Jesse's Corner

Spring is in the air and summer is around the corner! As most of you know, May is National Foster Care Month. On behalf of Waukesha County I'd like to thank you and your family for your dedication and support to the children in foster care and their parents. Since we're all busy it's very easy to forget to thank one another for all the good work we all do. I'd like you to take a minute to reflect on your foster care placement and think about all the good things that have occurred in your foster child's life. Thank you for all your work on behalf of foster children! For those of you who don't have a placement I'd like to express our appreciation for the time you spent attending the PACE training and becoming familiar with foster care in Waukesha County.

In the last couple of articles I've tried to highlight some of our other providers who need your help. Those programs are the Lutheran Social Services-Family Partnership Initiative (FPI) and the St. Aemilian's Lakeside-Respite Care program. We'd like to provide you

with more information about these programs and how you could foster some of the children who may need a foster home. For those of you who haven't had a foster care placement this may be a good opportunity to gather some foster care experience. I've talked to the administrators from both the programs and they've assured me that they will provide whatever additional training and support you need to be successful. That being said, we're still looking for one or two foster parents who are willing to get more information and assist. Are you interested? If so, please contact Shari Rather and she can direct you the appropriate supervisor.

We plan on offering another PACE training this fall. If you know a friend, neighbor or relative interested in becoming a foster parent, please let them know. They can get more information from Shari Rather, Foster Care Coordinator. Shari can be reached at 262-524-9284.

Finally, I'd like to wish all the foster mom's:
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Social Worker Spotlight

Ted Wuerslin



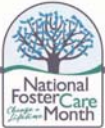
1. Personal Information: (marriage, kids, pets, hobbies)
Married to wife Andrea for 13 years. 3 step children; Amy Jo, Arthur & Anna. I have two grandchildren. Pets - 5 cats. Hobbies include Cycling, road and mountain bikes. Skiing - downhill and cross country.

2. Educational Background: (university attended and degree earned)
B.S. Education - University of Wisconsin, 1982.
M.S.W. Social Work - University of Wisconsin, 1984.

3. Work Experience: (length at Waukesha, how long working as a social worker, areas worked in)
Jefferson County Health and Human Services
1985-1988, Youth Services
Waukesha County Human Services
1989-1990, Family Services
Waukesha County Human Services
1990-present, Alternate Care

4. What brings you the greatest joy as a social worker? Why did you become a social worker?
Proud to work in Waukesha County and be able to provide the service to the community I grew up in. Very much enjoy working with special needs foster parents and their children. Really admire family's willingness to take our children into their homes and give them care and support. Enjoy creating plans and placement for special needs individuals in the community and being able to watch them become full members of our community.

Facts about Children in Foster Care



Total Population: 518,000 children were in the U.S. foster care system on September 30, 2004. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.ⁱ

Age:ⁱ

Average Age:	10.1 years
5%	< 1 year
25%	1-5 years
20%	6-10 years
29%	11-15 years
18%	16-18 years
2%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 53% Female: 47%

Race and Ethnicity: As a percentage, there are more children of color in the foster care system than in the general U.S. population. However, child abuse and neglect occur at about the same rate in all racial/ethnic groups.

Race/Ethnicity ⁱ	In out-of-home care	In general population ⁱⁱ
Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	34%	15%
White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	40%	61%
Hispanic	18%	17%
Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	2%	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	1%	3%
Unknown	2%	N/A
2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	3%	4%

Length of Stay: For the children in foster care on September 30, 2004, the average amount of time they had been in the system was 30 months. 29% of children leaving care in 2004 had been away from home for a year or longer. 53% of the young people leaving the system were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: In 2002, there was a total of 170,000 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes nationwide.ⁱⁱⁱ In 2004, 24% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Adoptions: In 2004, 59% of adopted children were adopted by their foster parent(s). The "foster parent" category excludes anyone identified as a relative of the child. 24% of children adopted in FY 2004 were adopted by a relative. A "relative" includes a step-parent or other relative of the child.

Siblings and Extended Families: Over 2 million American children live with grandparents or other relatives because their parents cannot care for them. When relatives provide foster care (known as *kinship care*), siblings can often stay together. Kinship care also improves stability by keeping displaced children closer to their extended families, their neighborhoods, and their schools.ⁱⁱⁱ

Youth in Transition: Each year, an estimated 20,000 young people "age out" of the U.S. foster care system. Many are only 18 years old and still need support and services. Several foster care alumni studies show that without a lifelong connection to a caring adult, these older youth are often left vulnerable to a host of adverse situations:

Outcome	National ^{iv}	Regional or Local
Earned a high school diploma	54%	50% - 63% ^v
Obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher	2%	2% ^{vi}
Became a parent	84%	42% ^{a,vii}
Were unemployed	51%	30% ^{viii}
Had no health insurance	30% ^b	29% ^{ix}
Had been homeless	25%	36% ^x
Were receiving public assistance	30%	26% ^{xi}

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